AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) 77th Cosntitutional Amendment Act, 1995 was enacted to provide reservation for SCs & STs in promotion under Article 16(4A) of the Constitution of India.

Animal Sacrifices in A.P.

5266. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh tops in animal sacrifice banned under the prevention of cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; and

(b) if so, the action taken to persuade the State Government to take action against the offenders under the relevant law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Yes Sir. The Animal Welfare Board of India had sent teams comprising of animal welfare officers and animal activists for finding facts of animal sacrifices throughout the Country. All available information points to Andhra Pradesh topping in animal sacrifices in India.

(b) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the concerned District Collectors in the State have been requested to take suitable action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (50 of 1960). The Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India has also discussed with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh so as to reduce the animal sacrifices in the State.

Report of WHO on women deaths

5267. SHRI MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that violence against women causes more deaths and disabilities than deaths due to various illness, as reported by World Health Organization;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre of Operation Research and Training records in Maharashtra showed 120 cases of dowry deaths and all these women were below 25 years of age;

(c) whether it is also a fact that another study from Delhi revealed that 56 per cent of all suicides were by women and marital discord was the common reasons; and